GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2444
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2007
CLEARANCE OF MINING LEASE APPLICATIONS
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Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the time taken for granting mining lease in the country is more than five years as compared to other countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a number of applications for grant of mining lease and for renewal of lapsed mining lease are pending with some State Governments particularly Jharkhand for supply of iron-ore to Steel Authority of India and others during each of the last three years and the current year, till date;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether due to delay in grant of mining lease, the small traders are resorting to corrupt practices of illegal mining for sale to non-captive users at exorbitant prices;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government for speedy disposal of such applications?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY)

(a) & (b) : Some references have come to the notice of the Central Government where the time taken for grant of mineral concession has been more than that prescribed in the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960. The High Level Committee (HLC) constituted by the Planning Commission has evaluated the reasons for the same and recommended measures for reducing the delays. Report of the HLC is available on the website of Ministry of Mines. (http:// mines. nic.in).

(c) & (d) : An applicant for mining lease submits application for mining lease to the concerned State Governments who are the owners of the minerals and grant mining leases. Prior approval of the Central Government is required only for the minerals mentioned in the First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. Number of applications pending with the concerned State Government is not centrally maintained.

(e) & (f): Instances of illegal mining from time to time have come to the notice of the Central Government. State Governments have been empowered to frame rules under Section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 for prevention of illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals etc. The Central Government has also directed State Governments to constitute task forces at State/District level for preventing illegal mining and the situation is being monitored.

(g): Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 already provide for time frame within which the State Government has to take decision on the complete application for mining lease. In case of delay the State Government has to give reasons for delay in writing.